REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-34 are currently pending in the application. Claims 18, 23-25, 28-29 and 33-34 are amended by the present amendment. The claims are amended to correct minor informalities and cosmetic matters of form. The specification is amended by the present amendment to correct a minor informality noted in the Office Action, and to remove references to specific claims. No new matter is presented.

As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully request that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on April 4, 2006, be considered and initialed in its entirety. Applicants note that the article listed in the "Other References" portion was not initialed as being acknowledged by the Examiner.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to because of a minor informality, Claims 18-34 were objected to; Claims 18-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 18, 25 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Grynberg (U.S. Pat. 7,216,227); and Claims 19-24, 26-29 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Grynberg in view of Sasyan et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,804,247, herein Sasyan).

The Office Action objected to the specification for including an embedded hyperlink. In response, the hyperlink in paragraph [0006] is deleted by the present amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claims 18-34 were objected to because the "terms 'destination', 'recipient address', 'transmission source', 'originator address', and 'reply destination address', as recited in the claims should be clearly defined and their usage in the claims should be consistent." In view

of the amendments to Claims 18, 23-25, 28-29 and 33-34, Applicants respectfully traverse

this objection, as each of the above noted terms are clearly defined in the specification, and

are used consistently throughout the claims.

As described at paragraphs [0038]-[0042] of the specification a "destination" is a

parameter (e.g., mail address (alias or actual)) defining the destination of the alias mail, and

"transmission source" is a parameter (e.g., mail address (alias or actual)) defining a source

corresponding to the source of the transmitted mail. The terms "recipient address" and

"originator address" are clearly defined at paragraph [0038] of the specification as "a mail

address (an actual address) that the 'recipient' [or 'originator'] originally has" (e.g., the actual

mail address of the recipient or originator of the mail message). The "reply destination

address" is defined at paragraph [0042] of the specification as "a mail address that is a

transmission source of an alias mail from the viewpoint of a recipient (a destination of a reply

mail responding to the alias mail)." Thus, each of terms used in the claims are clearly

defined in the originally filed specification. Further, these terms are used consistently

throughout each of Claims 18-34.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 18-34 be

withdrawn.

Claims 18-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being

"generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform to U.S. practice." In view of the

amendments to Claims 18, 23-25, 28-29 and 33-34, Applicants respectfully traverse this

rejection.

Independent Claim 18, for example, is directed to a mail delivery system (Fig. 1) that

receives an alias mail having an alias address (e.g., X(R,C)) different from a recipient address

(e.g., R) as a destination and replaces the destination with the recipient address (e.g., R) to

transfer the alias mail. The mail delivery system also receives a reply mail responding to the

alias mail and replaces the recipient address (e.g., R) in the reply mail with the alias address

(e.g., X(R,C)) as a transmission source of the reply mail to transfer the reply mail. As

described at paragraphs [0057]-[0060] of the specification, for example, such a configuration

allows the mail delivery system to simplify an e-mail alias system by creating an e-mail alias

based on the combination of the recipients actual e-mail address and a generation argument.

Such a configuration prevents the mail delivery system from looking up various e-mail

aliases in a database to determine which aliases correspond to actual e-mail addresses.

Instead, the alias address can be resolved using the generation argument.

To this end, Claim 18 further recites that the system includes an alias mail processing

unit (e.g., alias mail relay server 10) that restores, when an alias mail having an alias address

(X(R,C)) generated from the recipient address (R) and a predetermined generation argument

(C) as a destination is received, the recipient address (R) and the generation argument (C)

from the alias address, replaces the destination of the alias mail with the recipient address

(R), and *includes the generation argument* (C) *in the alias mail to transfer the alias mail*.

As described in an exemplary embodiment at Fig. 4 and paragraphs [0058] and [0081]-

[0085], the user address storing unit 11 of alias mail relay server 10 restores a recipient

address (R) and a generation argument (C) based on an alias address (X) generated from both

the recipient address and the generation argument to replace the alias destination address with

an actual recipient address. The argument (C) is also included in the alias mail to facilitate

similar processing in the recipient.

The mail delivery system also includes a reply mail processing unit (e.g., remailer 20)

that acquires, when a reply mail responding to the alias mail transferred by the alias mail

processing unit is received, *the generation argument* (C) *from the reply mail, regenerates*

the alias address (X) *from the generation argument* (C) and *a recipient address* (R)

indicating a transmission source of the reply mail, and *replaces the transmission source of*

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the reply mail with the alias address to transfer the reply mail. As described in an

exemplary embodiment at Fig. 3 and paragraphs [0063] and [0075]-[0080] of the

specification, the address converting unit 22 of the remailer 20 regenerates the alias address

(X(R,C)) from the regeneration argument (C) and the recipient address (R) so that the address

of the recipient appears as the alias address (X) when a reply is transmitted in response to the

received alias mail.

Therefore, Claim 18, as presently presented, is definite and conforms to current U.S.

practice. Moreover, the terminology used in the claims is consistent with that provided in the

detailed description in the originally filed specification. Claims 19-34 are similarly drafted,

and are also believed to be definite and conform to U.S. practice.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 18-34 under

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn. Should such a rejected be maintained in a

subsequent Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that such a rejection cite the

specific portions of the claims that are deemed to fail to conform to U.S. practice.

Claims 18, 25 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by

Grynberg. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as independent Claims 18, 25 and

30 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

As noted above, Claim 18 is directed to a mail delivery system that receives an alias

mail having an alias address different from a recipient address as a destination and replaces

the destination with the recipient address to transfer the alias mail and receives a reply mail

responding to the alias mail and replaces the recipient address with the alias address as a

transmission source of the reply mail to transfer the reply mail, the mail delivery system

comprising:

> an alias mail processing unit that restores, when an alias mail having
> an alias address generated from the recipient address and a predetermined
> generation argument as a destination is received, ***the recipient address and
> the generation argument from the alias address***, replaces the destination of

the alias mail with the recipient address, and *includes the generation argument in the alias mail to transfer the alias mail*; and

a reply mail processing unit that *acquires*, when a reply mail responding to the alias mail transferred by the alias mail processing unit is received, the *generation argument from the reply mail, regenerates the alias address from the generation argument and a recipient address* indicating a transmission source of the reply mail, and *replaces the transmission source of the reply mail with the alias address to transfer the reply mail.*

Independent Claims 25 and 30, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 18, 25 and 30.

Turning to the applied reference, Grynberg describes a system comprising alias address creation software used to generate multiple alias addresses representing a single real address of a particular recipient.[1] Each alias address is computed from data representing a prospective sender and a recipient, and a sender is provided with an alias address by a recipient for communicating back to said recipient. Messages sent by a sender, employing alias addresses are analyzed by a forwarding server which validates each alias address and checks it against a blocking list. Messages which pass these checks are directed to the recipient's real address registered with said forwarding server.

Grynberg, therefore, is similar to the systems described in the "Background" portion of the specification, and merely describes a system by which a user may select an alias, which is then compared to various aliases in a mail server to determine the messages that may ultimately be passed to the user. Thus, Grynberg fails to teach or suggest a mail delivery system that includes, *inter alia*, "a reply mail processing unit that *acquires*, when a reply mail responding to the alias mail transferred by the alias mail processing unit is received, the *generation argument from the reply mail, regenerates the alias address from the generation argument and a recipient address* indicating a transmission source of the reply

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[1] Grynberg, Abstract.

mail, and *replaces the transmission source of the reply mail with the alias address to transfer the reply mail,*" as recited in independent Claim 18.

Instead, at cols. 3-5 for example, <u>Grynberg</u> describes that a recipient user 101 uses software 101a to create an alias, which is sent to a would be sender 102 for sending future e-mails to the recipient. These aliases may be stored in a server 103 which checks each received e-mail for authenticity (e.g., checks that the alias corresponds to recipient and are not on blocking list, etc.), and forwards the email to the recipient 101 when the received e-mail passes the validation check at the server 103.

In contrast, Claim 18 recites that the reply mail processing unit acquires *a generation argument* and *a recipient address* (actual address) from a reply mail and *generates the alias address from the generation argument and a recipient address.* <u>Grynberg</u>, in contrast, describes that the recipient user 101 generates the alias themselves using software on their desktop computer and informs a would be sender 102 of the alias for future communications. At no point does <u>Grynberg</u> teach or suggest anything similar to a mail processing unit that acquires a generation argument and an actual recipient address and generates the alias address from these two components to formulate a reply e-mail, as claimed.

Further, Claim 18 recites that the alias mail *includes the generation argument,* which is a parameter used to generate the alias address, and that the *generation argument* is used to *regenerate the alias address from the generation argument and a recipient address* indicating a transmission source of the reply mail. <u>Grynberg</u>, however, fails to teach or suggest any feature similar to the *generation argument,* much less that such a parameter is used to resolve actual recipient addresses or generate alias addresses after a message is received, as recited in independent Claim 18.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn. For substantially similar

reasons it is also submitted that independent Claims 25 and 30 patentably define over
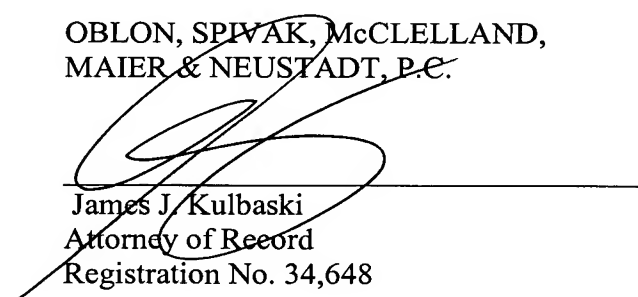
Grynberg.

Claims 19-24, 26-29 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

unpatentable over Grynberg in view of Sasyan. However, as Claims 19-24, 26-29 and 31-34

include the above-differentiated features of Claim 18 by virtue of independent recitation or

dependency, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims also patentably define over the

applied references. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Sasyan fails to remedy any

of the above noted deficiencies of Grynberg.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 19-24, 26-29

and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing

comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 18-34 is definite

and patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is

therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable

reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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